

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) ~~The file described in claim 1~~ A file for papers or leaves comprising a cover sheet body and a binding member comprising a ring-shaped body, wherein the ring-shaped body is mounted on the cover sheet body, wherein the ring-shaped body comprises first and second hinges at predetermined positions, the predetermined positions being located away from the top of the ring-shaped body, wherein a portion ahead of the hinges of the ring-shaped body can incline,

wherein the ring-shaped body comprises ~~a pair of~~ first and second openable and closable ring chips and each distal end portion of the ring chips is engaged to close a space between the ring chips,

~~a wherein the first hinge is arranged on one of the ring chips~~ the first ring chip and the second hinge comprises an engaging arrangement to engage a distal end portion of one of the ring chips ~~the first ring chip with the other second ring chip in a relatively rotatable manner is established to be a second hinge.~~

3. (Currently amended) The file described in claim 2 wherein ~~the engaging arrangement is so arranged that at the distal end portion of one ring chip formed is of the first and second ring chips~~ comprises a projecting portion that projects toward the distal end portion of the other ring chip of the first and second ring chips when the space between the ring chips is closed,
~~at the distal end portion of the other ring chip formed is~~ comprises an axial hole that accommodates the projecting portion when the space between the ring chips is closed, and each distal end portion of the ring chips is relatively rotatable by a concavo-convex engagement of the projecting portion and the axial hole by making use of wherein the projecting portion as provides a rotational axis and the axial hole as provides a bearing.

4. (Currently amended) The file described in claim 3 wherein ~~a notch is formed by cutting off at~~ least a part of an inner face of the axial hole has a notch so that an opening edge of the axial hole expands toward a direction to which the ring chips open or close.

5. (Currently amended) The file described in claim 3 wherein ~~a~~ the distal end portion of the projecting portion is ~~treated to be a~~ sphere.

6. (Currently amended) The file described in claim 2 wherein ~~a radius face in a partial sphere shape is formed at a~~ the projecting end of one of the ring chips has a radius face in a partial sphere shape.

7. (Currently amended) The file described in claim 2 wherein ~~a radius face in a partial sphere shape is formed at each of the projecting ends end of the each ring chips~~ chip has a radius face in a partial sphere shape.

8. (Currently amended) ~~The file described in claim 1 wherein~~ A file for papers or leaves comprising a cover sheet body and a binding member comprising a ring-shaped body, wherein the ring-shaped body is mounted on the cover sheet body, wherein the ring-shaped body comprises first and second hinges at predetermined positions, and wherein a portion ahead of the hinges of the ring-shaped body can incline, and
further comprising a stopper to retain an angle of the hinge and to maintain the portion ahead of the hinge in an inclined position.

9. (Currently amended) ~~The file described in claim 8~~ A file for papers or leaves comprising a cover sheet body and a binding member comprising a ring-shaped body, wherein the ring-shaped body is mounted on the cover sheet body, wherein the ring-shaped body comprises first and second hinges at predetermined positions, and wherein a portion ahead of the hinges of the ring-shaped body can incline,
wherein one hinge connects first and second members of the ring-shaped body and comprises a stopper to retain an angle of the hinge;

wherein the stopper ~~consists of~~ comprises a pushing portion arranged on ~~one of the members constituting the ring-shaped body through the hinge~~ the first member, and a surface of the ~~other~~ second member ~~on which has~~ a concave portion ~~is arranged~~, and the pushing portion retains the angle of the hinge by ~~being inserted~~ insertion into the concave portion ~~with by~~ applying a pushing force to the surface of the ~~other~~ second member.

10. (Currently amended) The file described in claim 9 wherein the stopper has the concave portion at an end portion of the ~~other~~ second member and retains the angle of the hinges in an orthotropic condition by inserting the pushing portion into the concave portion.

11. (Currently amended) The file described in claim 9 wherein the pushing portion ~~consists of~~ comprises an elastic member and an abutting member, one portion of the elastic member is fixed to a predetermined position ~~of on~~ one of the first and second members and the other portion of the elastic member supports the abutting member, and the abutting member makes an abutting contact with the other of the first and second members ~~member~~.

12. (Currently amended) The file described in claim 11 wherein the elastic member ~~consists of~~ comprises a coiled spring and the abutting member ~~consists of~~ comprises a spherical body.

13. (Currently amended) ~~The file described in claim 1~~ A file for papers or leaves comprising a cover sheet body and a binding member comprising a ring-shaped body, wherein the ring-shaped body is mounted on the cover sheet body, wherein the ring-shaped body comprises first and second hinges at predetermined positions, and wherein a portion ahead of the hinges of the ring-shaped body can incline,

wherein the ring-shaped body comprises a pair of standing post portions extending generally vertically to a mounting face of the cover sheet body on which the binding member is mounted and a curved or bent arch portion to connect each of the distal ends of the standing post portions, and the ~~hinge is~~ hinges are arranged at boundaries between each standing post portions and the arch portion respectively.

14. (Previously presented) The file described in claim 13 wherein at least one of the standing post portions extends in a linear manner.

15. (Currently amended) The file described in claim ~~18~~ wherein the cover sheet body includes a rear cover sheet ~~having on an inner face of~~ on which the binding member is mounted, a scroop continuing to the rear cover sheet, and a front cover sheet continuing to the scroop and facing to the rear cover sheet, and

wherein the front cover sheet has an opening that allows the portion ahead of the hinges of the ring-shaped body to pass when the portion is not inclined and prevents the portion ahead of the hinge of the ring-shaped body from passing when the portion is inclined the above-mentioned a pair of the hinges are arranged at a position separated from the inner face of the rear cover sheet by a distance generally corresponding to a width of the scroop.

16. (Currently amended) The file described in claim ~~1~~ wherein the cover sheet body includes a rear cover sheet ~~on an inner face of which the binding member is mounted, a scroop continuing to the rear cover sheet and a front cover sheet continuing to the scroop and facing to the rear cover sheet, and~~

~~an opening that allows the portion ahead of the hinge of the ring-shaped body to pass in a condition that the portion is not inclined and that prevents the portion ahead of the hinge of the ring-shaped body from passing in a condition that the portion is inclined is formed on the front cover sheet when the rear cover sheet and the front cover sheet are opened or closed~~ 15 wherein the hinges are arranged at a position separated from the inner face of the rear cover sheet by a distance generally corresponding to a width of the scroop.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) ~~The binding member described in claim 17~~ A binding member comprising a ring-shaped body and a pair of hinges at predetermined positions on the ring-shaped body, the predetermined positions being located away from the top of the ring-shaped body, wherein a portion ahead of the hinges of the ring-shaped body can incline, wherein the

ring-shaped body comprises ~~a pair of~~ first and second openable and closable ring chips and each distal end portion of the ring chips is engaged to close a space between the ring chips, ~~a wherein the first hinge is arranged on one of the ring chips the first ring chip and the second hinge comprises an engaging arrangement to engage a distal end portion of one of the ring chips the first ring chip with the other second ring chip in a relatively rotatable manner is established to be a second hinge.~~

19. (Currently amended) The binding member described in claim 18 wherein ~~the engaging arrangement is so arranged that at the distal end portion of one ring chip formed is of the first and second ring chips comprises a projecting portion that projects toward the distal end portion of the other ring chip of the first and second ring chips~~ when the space between the ring chips is closed,

~~at the distal end portion of the other ring chip formed is~~ comprises an axial hole that accommodates the projecting portion when the space between the ring chips is closed, and each distal end portion of the ring chips is relatively rotatable by a concavo-convex engagement of the projecting portion and the axial hole by making use of wherein the projecting portion as provides a rotational axis and the axial hole as provides a bearing.

20. (Currently amended) The binding member described in claim 19 wherein ~~a notch is formed by cutting off at least a part of an inner face of the axial hole~~ has a notch so that an opening edge of the axial hole expands toward a direction to which the ring chips open or close.

21. (Currently amended) The binding member described in claim 19 wherein ~~a the~~ the distal end portion of the projecting portion is ~~treated to be a~~ sphere.

22. (Currently amended) The binding member described in claim 18 wherein ~~a radius face in a partial sphere shape is formed at a the projecting end of one of the ring chips~~ has a radius face in a partial sphere shape.

23. (Currently amended) The binding member described in claim 18 wherein ~~a radius face in a partial sphere shape is formed at each of the projecting ends end of the each ring~~ each ship has a radius face in a partial sphere shape.

24. (Currently amended) ~~The binding member described in claim 17 wherein~~ A binding member comprising a ring-shaped body and a pair of hinges at predetermined positions on the ring-shaped body, wherein a portion ahead of the hinges of the ring-shaped body can incline, and further comprising a stopper to retain an angle of the hinge and to maintain the portion ahead of the hinge in an inclined position.

25. (Currently amended) ~~The binding member described in claim 24~~ A binding member comprising a ring-shaped body and a pair of hinges at predetermined positions on the ring-shaped body, wherein a portion ahead of the hinges of the ring-shaped body can incline, and further comprising a stopper to retain an angle of the hinge;
~~wherein the stopper consists of~~ comprises a pushing portion arranged on ~~one of the members constituting the ring-shaped body through the hinges~~ the first member and a surface of the ~~other second member on which has a concave portion is arranged,~~ and the pushing portion retains the angle of the hinge by ~~being inserted~~ insertion into the concave portion ~~with by~~ applying a pushing force to the surface of the ~~other second member.~~

26. (Previously presented) The binding member described in claim 25 wherein the stopper has the concave portion and retains the angle of the hinges in an orthotropic condition by inserting the pushing portion into the concave portion.

27. (Currently amended) The binding member described in claim 25 wherein the pushing portion ~~consists of~~ comprises an elastic member and an abutting member, one portion of the elastic member is fixed to a predetermined position ~~of on~~ on one of the first and second members and the other portion of the elastic member supports the abutting member, and the abutting member makes an abutting contact with the ~~other member~~ of the first and second members.

28. (Currently amended) The binding member described in claim 27 wherein the elastic member ~~consists of~~ comprises a coiled spring and the abutting member ~~consists of~~ comprises a spherical body.

29. (Currently amended) ~~The binding member described in claim 17~~ A binding member comprising a ring-shaped body and a pair of hinges at predetermined positions on the ring-shaped body, wherein a portion ahead of the hinges of the ring-shaped body can incline, wherein the ring-shaped body comprises a pair of standing post portions extending generally vertically to a mounting face of the cover sheet body on which the binding member is mounted and a curved or bent arch portion arranged to connect each distal end of the standing post portions, and ~~the hinge is~~ hinges are arranged at boundaries between each standing post portions and the arch portion respectively.

30. (Previously presented) The binding member described in claim 29 wherein at least one of the standing post portions extends in a linear manner.